

Arkansas Insurance Department

Mike Beebe
Governor



Julie Benafield Bowman
Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Insurance Department Staff to Assist Dumas Residents Affected by Recent Tornadoes

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS (February 27, 2007) —State Insurance Commissioner Julie Benafield Bowman today announced that members of her staff are headed to Dumas on Wednesday to offer assistance to residents with insurance questions or problems related to the storms which devastated the area over the weekend. Commissioner Bowman said, "I am sending some of the Arkansas Insurance Department's Disaster Assistance Team to provide consumers with the tools necessary to make informed decisions relating to their individual insurance needs." These team members will be at the Disaster Recovery Center set up by the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management.

Bowman went on to point out things to consider when faced with a loss of personal and real property at the hands of a storm. These include: contact your insurer or agent without delay; reasonable temporary repairs are covered by insurance policies; keep any and all receipts involving repairs; check your policy to determine what coverage you have; check your automobile policy which may cover wind and hail damage and towing if your vehicle was damaged in a storm; and sign for repairs with a contractor only after making sure the contractor is legitimate.

(MORE)

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Bowman said, “I am aware of the extensive damage and I want everyone in the areas affected to know if there are any insurance issues they wish to discuss and are unable to discuss them with my staff onsite, they should call the Department’s Consumer Services Division at 501-371-2640 or 800-852-5494 for assistance.” The Department can also be reached via e-mail at insurance.Consumers@arkansas.gov .

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